

Equal Rights

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SATURDAY
MAY 30, 1931



Alva Belmont House

Headquarters of the National Woman's Party in Washington, D. C., where the Conference of Party Workers is holding its sessions on May 29-31. The business meetings of the Conference, as well as the banquet on May 30, are to be held at the Dodge Hotel. It is anticipated that this Conference will aid effectively in solidifying the Feminist vote.

Equal Rights



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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]

Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.

Introduced in the House April 25, 1929,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,
Pennsylvania.

In the Name of Civilization

THE purpose of the Conference of Party Workers, now in session in Washington, D. C., can perhaps be best expressed through an analogy. Women in the United States now possess, and for the last ten years have possessed, a powerful motor, in the form of their votes, that could, if it were properly attached to the political machine, draw humanity rapidly up the steep ascent of progress. It could carry the United States far away from the danger of war; it could transport the nation from the slums of poverty to the land of plenty; it could carry us all, men, women and children, across the boundaries of unequal rights, and bring the human race, at last, to the country of heart's desire, foreseen by the founders of our Republic, where all human beings are born free and equal, and entitled, through the very fact of their existence, to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

All of these things, the motor now possessed by women in the form of their votes, could do, but it is not doing them, for it is not hitched up to the machine, it is ambling, just running along in neutral. Nobody seems to know how to throw in the gears, with the result that the machine stands still and everyone but the politician is discontented.

The purpose of the conference is to investigate this dilemma, or at least to inaugurate an investigation.

Why is it that women's votes, which are numerically equal to men's, count so much less at the ballot box? Why have we so few women in Congress, in the State Legislatures, in the City Councils? Why are there so few women on the bench and in appointive offices?

Our municipal governments are, in some instances, an international scandal; where is the proverbial housewife, with her pail and mop, and the vote in her hand, in place of the well-advertised cleanser?

The answer to these questions is obscure and difficult, not to be got at, perhaps, in a single conference, but the answer must be found or the hope of the ages will be defeated.

In the flaming forge of war the vote was wrought; it is the symbol of the ultimate victory of right over might. A piece of paper, not even a ploughshare, in place of the sword. We can make and unmake monarchs with this thing. We rule the treasures of the earth and of man's labor with it. Millions, nay billions of dollars, move this way or that, as an election dictates.

It is a terrible power, that embodied in the vote, like lightning or dynamite got up as a play toy. Many people regard the ballot as a piece of paper with a little uninteresting printing on it, fit only for the wastebasket; they throw it away. Others, realizing better its value, use it, through organization, for their own advancement. Still others recognize the ballot as their most precious heritage, paid for in blood and tears, and sacred to the common needs of all humanity.

Those in the last group are the people who have come to the conference. In the name of civilization we salute them.

A Complete Rectification

WOMEN all over the country rejoice at Secretary Doak's decision to refuse to permit a representative of the Department of Labor of the United States to appear before the International Labor Conference, now meeting at Geneva, in advocacy of an unequal industrial code. When newspapers carried the story that the Secretary had appointed a representative on such a mission, telegrams of protest and inquiry poured into his office. The Secretary of Labor's answer was immediate and decisive: a complete rectification. On Saturday, May 23, he announced that the Geneva mission of this representative had been cancelled, and that the Department of Labor would not participate in the conference. All over the country working women draw freer breath because of his decision. Again the United States refuses to uphold discriminations against women. The National Woman's Party joins all believers in Equal Rights everywhere in commending this splendid act of the Secretary of Labor.

A most interesting feature of the affair has been the national recognition of its justice on the part of the press. First-page stories in such papers as the *New York Times*, the *Brooklyn Eagle* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* have indicated the importance in the public mind of the Secretary's action. There is no question that we are as a nation proud to feel that our voice will not be heard in international gatherings except when we speak for equality and justice. As regards industrial conventions, the ultimate economic emancipation of woman is inevitable. Once more the United States reiterates a determination to do nothing to hamper or delay its coming.

Consultative Committee to Meet in Geneva

FOR the first time in the eleven years of its history the League of Nations has formed a committee of women to advise upon a matter of particular interest to women. Sixteen delegates from eight leading women's international organizations will meet as a committee under the auspices of the League, in the League of Nations Building, on July 2, 1931, to draw up recommendations on the nationality of women. These recommendations will be submitted to the Assembly of the League at its 1931 session.

As the first step in the codification of international law, The Hague Codification Conference, held under the auspices of the League in March and April, 1930, adopted a convention on nationality, including the nationality of women. This convention contained various discriminations against women. To date no nation has ratified the proposed convention; out of 66 nations invited to sign, 29 have not signed; the United States not only did not sign but actually voted against the convention at The Hague. The late Under-Secretary Cotton, at the time Acting Secretary of State of the United States, gave as a reason for United States opposition to the convention: "We do not in our laws make differences—or make few or relatively and unimportant differences—as to the rights of men and women in matters of nationality."

As a result of protest by women to the League against The Hague Nationality Convention, a two-fold concession has been granted: (1) the subject of the nationality of women has been reopened and placed for discussion on the agenda of the 1931 Assembly; (2) a committee of women representing eight of the foremost

international women's organizations has been created by the Council of the League to advise the League upon this subject.

The eight organizations upon the League of Nations Women's Consultative Committee with their representatives, are as follows:

Inter-American Commission of Women—Doris Stevens, New York, U. S. A. (chairman of Inter-American Commission of Women); Alice Paul, Washington, U. S. A. (chairman Nationality Committee, Inter-American Commission of Women). Alternates—Blanche Z. de Baralt, Havana, Cuba (member nationality Committee of Inter-American Commission of Women); Marta Vergara, Santiago, Chile, (member Nationality Committee of Inter-American Commission of Women).

Equal Rights International—Margaret Whittemore, Santa Barbara, U. S. A. (international vice-president of Equal Rights International); Dorothy Evans, Farnborough, England (nationality chairman of Equal Rights International). Alternates—Anna Godyevatz, Belgrade, Yugoslavia (member of the International Council of Equal Rights International); Helena Granitsch, Vienna, Austria (member of the International Council of Equal Rights International).

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom—Madeleine Z. Doty, New York, U. S. A. (consultative member of International Executive of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom); International Executive of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (consultative member of International Executive of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom). Alternates—Emily G. Balch, Washington, U. S. A. (president U. S. A. section of

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom); Camille Drevet, Paris, France (international secretary of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom); Mary Sheepshanks, London, England (former international secretary of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom).

International Council of Women—Maria Vérone, Paris, France (chairman of the Legal Committee of the International Council of Women); L. C. A. Van Eeghen, Doorn, Holland (honorary secretary-general of the International Council of Women).

International Suffrage Alliance—Betsy Bakker Nort, The Hague, Holland (member of Parliament); Margery I. Corbett Ashby, London, England (international president of the International Suffrage Alliance).

World Women's Union—Mme. C. Guthrie d'Arcis, Geneva, Switzerland (international president of World Women's Union); Mme. V. Ruesch, Geneva, Switzerland (international secretary of World Women's Union).

All Asian Conference of Women—Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Madras, India (chairman Committee on International Relations of All Asian Conference); Dr. Rosa Welt Straus, Jerusalem, Palestine (president of Palestine Equal Rights Association).

International Federation of University Women—Chrystal MacMillan, London, England (chairman Joint Nationality Committee of International Women's Organizations); Nelly Schreiber-Favre, Geneva, Switzerland (international vice-president of the International Federation of University Women).

The Party Workers' Conference

MRS. JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN, Presidential Commissioner of the George Washington Bicentennial Commission, and former president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, will welcome the delegates to the conference at 10.30 Saturday morning, May 30. Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman, will respond on behalf of the Woman's Party. Edith Houghton Hooker, State chairman for Maryland, will preside over that morning's session, at which State and legislative chairmen will discuss "Successful Methods of Organization" as evolved from their own experience. Among the speakers will be Florence Kennard, of Maryland; Mrs. Robert F. Hudson, of Virginia; Ella Riegel, of Pennsylvania; and Leila Enders, of New Jersey. Reports will be read from the chairmen of more distant States; and methods followed by other national or-

ganizations of women will be discussed. An important feature of this session is the open forum discussion. Dora G. Ogle, National Council member, will speak upon "The Value of Equal Rights to State Organizations," again with discussion from the floor.

At 12.30, Laura Berrien, of Georgia, will preside over an informal luncheon with Sarah Grogan, globe trotter, lawyer, wit, and Feminist, as first speaker. This luncheon will be held, as will all Saturday's sessions, at the Dodge Hotel, the Garden House at the Dodge having been reserved by the Woman's Party for the two-days' sessions.

At two o'clock Jane Norman Smith, of New York, will preside over a business session devoted largely to an examination and discussion of organization methods which have been followed successfully by other women's organization. Mildred

Kahler Geare, publicity chairman of the Maryland State Federation of Women's Clubs, and editor of the Club Page of the Baltimore Sunday American, will contribute from her experience.

Elizabeth Cullen of Washington will discuss the dramatic and successful methods of Columbian women, for instance, and Helen Elizabeth Brown will explain how women have been organized for work in the Republican Party in Maryland. Edith C. Salisbury, first president of the Zonta Club in Washington, will speak for that alert group; and Miss Grace Goodpasture, president, will tell how Soroptomists do things. Representatives of Republican, Democratic, university and club women will take part in the discussion.

At half-past three a sightseeing automobile tour for visiting delegates will start from the Dodge, ending with tea at Alva Belmont House, where Mrs. Paul

Myron Linebarger, District chairman, and the other District officers, assisted by Mabel Van Dyke, chairman, and officers of the Young Women's Council, will welcome the visitors and show them the house and grounds.

The day's activities will culminate in a dinner at the Garden House of the Dodge at seven o'clock. Ruth Hale, founder and president of the Lucy Stone League, will preside. The speakers will be Fleta Campbell Springer, novelist and O. Henry short story prize-winner; Abbie Scott Baker, whose charm, brilliance, and eloquence have long been important factors in Feminist progress; Rebekah Great-house, Assistant District Attorney of the District of Columbia; Vivian Simpson, who will show the changing attitude of men lawyers toward women in the legal profession; Nina Allender, artist and National Council member; Virginia White Speel, Republican National Committee-woman from the District of Columbia; and Roma N. Hawkins, of Massachusetts, well-known for her work with the jury test case in that State and for her Woman's Party radio broadcasts.

On Sunday morning, May 31, delegates will either attend George Washington's Church in Alexandria, the National Cathedral, or some other of the beautiful

and historic churches in Washington; or will take part in a series of Round Tables to be held until half-past twelve at Alva Belmont House, on the general subject of publicity methods. Both the Woman's Party and the press will be heard from; with Ruth Allison Hudnut presiding. Among the Woman's Party speakers will be Florence Brewer Boeckel, Muna Lee, and Leila Enders.

A most unusual and valuable contribution to the discussion will be made by representatives of the press, including some of the best-known newspaper women of the country. Winifred Mallon, Washington correspondent of the *New York Times*, will explain what kind of story, and how written, interests the great out-of-town newspaper; Martha Strayer, of the *Daily News*, president of the Women's Press Club, will discuss the story adapted for the general news columns; Mary Jones, society editor of the *Washington Herald* and former president of the Press Club, will explain what should go to the society page, and in what form; and Bess Furman, of the Associated Press, will set forth what we do not want in releases.

Delegates will again meet at the Dodge at two o'clock for a business session, with Burnita Shelton Matthews presiding, on the topic, "Organizing Women for Political Action." Speakers include Marie

Prestman and Ida I. Kloze; and animated discussion from the floor is assured by the topic. A report of the Resolutions Committee, including recommendations for political action, will follow at half-past three.

The two-day session will close Sunday afternoon with a garden party at Alva Belmont House, from four to six, at which Doris Stevens and Governor Theodore Roosevelt, of Porto Rico, will be guests of honor. The particular significance of the occasion lies in the fact that this will be the official farewell of the Woman's Party to Miss Stevens, on the eve of her departure for Geneva to attend the first meeting of the League of Nations International Committee of Women on Nationality, of which she is a distinguished member. A statement of the importance of this committee and a list of its members appear elsewhere in our pages. The National Broadcasting Company is arranging a nation-wide hook-up from 4.45-5.00 P. M., Eastern Standard time, for Miss Stevens' speech, in which she will tell how the League of Nations came to form the Women's Committee and what it should accomplish.

Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman, and Mrs. Paul Myron Linebarger, District chairman, will be hostesses.

On the Air in California

MUCH has been said during the last four months about the married women bills and the bills that had for their purpose the extension of the eight-hour law.

But little has been told about the present eight-hour law and why it is objectionable to women in business, in industry and in the professions. Yes, in the professions, if you call an attorney a professional person.

A woman lawyer is exempt from the eight-hour law for females, if she is in her own office or works in an office not named in the law, but if she contracts her services in any one of the establishments named in the law, she is immediately classed as a female, and as a female must work by the clock—timing in and timing out—that is, restricted to eight hours per day.

The females who are affected by the law are those females employed in any manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment, or industry, laundry, hotel, public lodging house, apartment house, hospital, barber shop, place of amusement, or restaurant or telephone or telegraph establishment or office, or in the operation of elevators in office buildings, or by any express or transportation company.

Every employer in the establishments named must keep an accurate record of

Radio Talk by Sue Brobst, President of the Business Women's Legislative Council of California, Over KFVD, May 23, 1931

the names and actual hours worked of his female employees, which record is accessible at all reasonable hours to the chief of the division of labor statistics and law enforcement of the department of industrial relations, his deputies and agents.

Another feature of the law, which few business women realize, is that no female working in the named establishments is permitted by law to work anywhere else in the twenty-four hours, if the entire work for which she receives money is more than eight hours in the twenty-four hours.

In the language of the law:

It shall be unlawful for any employer of labor to employ, cause to be employed, or permit any female employee to labor any number of hours whatever, with knowledge that such female has heretofore been employed within the same date and day of twenty-four hours in any establishment or industry and by any previous employer for a period of time that will, combined with the period of time of employment by a previous employer, exceed eight hours.

Should any employer or manager, superintendent, agent or officer thereof, employing any female, violate or omit to

comply with any of the provisions of this act or employ or suffer or permit any female to work in violation thereof, he is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished, for the first offense, by a fine of not less than \$25, nor more than \$100. Second offense, or subsequent offense, by a fine of not less than \$100—nor more than \$250—or by imprisonment for not more than sixty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

In this entire law or act the word "woman" is never used; the word "female" is given at least eleven times, and in the title of the act, three times.

In the act to protect women against lifting boxes the makers of the bill thought of a female as being a woman once, otherwise the word female is used at least five times.

In the Minimum Wage Law the female has advanced or grown to be a woman, and is classed here with minors. In this law which covers ten pages, women and minors are mentioned twenty-four times.

The question some of us ask is, when are women going to grow up and become adult human beings? At least, when are they going to grow up in the minds of our legislators?

In the Constitution of our own State it says, "No person shall, on account of sex, be disqualified from entering upon or pur-

suing any lawful business, vocation or profession."

Possibly the legislators thought they could best protect the females of the species by not considering them as persons.

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary says of the word "female": "Female emphasizes the idea of sex—it applies alike to human beings, animals and plants; its use as a synonym for woman, once frequent among good writers, is now commonly tabooed."

In the Constitution of the United States it says in the Amendment on "Citizenship":

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States: Nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any

person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

You will note that in the Constitution of the United States the term "person" is used.

Of course, in the Declaration of Independence it does say "that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We women of this land of the free have taken it for granted that the term man embraced woman, and that we, too, were persons, with the respect due a person, and the privilege of exercising our inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

When will females become intelligent women, and women become adults, preferring to be the companions of men, instead of being the clinging vine type? When financial reverses come unexpectedly into the home, all members of the fam-

ily must make a complete change, whether male or female, man or woman. The bills must be paid, the taxes must be paid, the installment on the furniture must be paid, the payments on the purchase of the home must be paid, and Johnnie and Jennie must be educated.

Our educational institutions and public libraries have been stressing for some time the advantages of adult education. We have yet to find where they say—These millinery, cooking and literature classes are for females, or these carpentry, machinist and chemistry classes are for males. The individuals, whether males or females, are given the freedom of choice; the freedom of selecting that class of study he or she desires.

Let us therefore be fair and consistent in our reasoning and give to men and women alike equal opportunity to work and equal protection as workers; that whenever legislation is necessary it should be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker.

A Workingwoman in Georgia

By Josephine Casey

Editor's Note: This is the third of a series of articles by Miss Casey on conditions as she has found them in Georgia. Miss Casey is organizing the women textile workers of the South so that they may effectively protest at the ballot box against unequal industrial legislation.

THE South hates rush. It wants time to weigh facts; but after analyzing, it is less likely to let tradition stand in the way of truth than is the North. My experience with organizations in the North has many a time proved to me that there is a certain rigidity which is terrible to penetrate. Take for example those who have a grand time "helping the working girl." They find one time that a certain procedure seemed to help a group, and they develop a system and a phaseology to fit this and apply it to the bitter end, regardless of changed conditions. At a time when the entire working population is anxious to be permitted to work full time—to share in earnings—our noble allies don't see that their "big help" has turned into a big stick. They refuse to open their eyes and see that thirty-two States have laws for "persons" in fixing hours of labor that an actress may get her job because she is a woman (although Julian Eltinge was a pretty good substitute) but to the employer we are generally just "persons" who can do work to suit. The working woman does not want protection—today she asks for an equal chance to get and hold a job.

I sat in a textile worker's home—it was a nice day but there was fire in the grate. She knew from experience why that little fire was better: a northerner would have to be told. Yes, she was chewing. They don't all chew; some are exquisitely dainty. I asked her what she thought of stopping over-production by doing away with night work. She replied, "It don't make no difference whether I do my work at two o'clock in the afternoon or two o'clock at

night. That don't make it more." I said, "You mean you want your share of the work to be done?" and she answered, "Yessum, that's it."

I sat in a lovely home in Druid Hills explaining to a group of college women the actual conditions I had found. They had been judging from statistics. I give here an example of the difference between life and theory. I found in one mill village a modern nursery, everything up to the minute, with built-in baths, electric lights, and a full equipment for child-raising in line with well-thought plans. The mothers had to come out of the mills at regular schedule to nurse the babies. The children of pre-school age were fed regularly and had to play and rest under direction. Other children came into this modern bungalow at noon and were given meals—well-balanced menu and plenty of milk. The grove where the playground was located was attractive—the woman in charge was able and kind. Now that was how things were when mother was employed. When mother was out of work and the children were home she could not afford milk. The nursery meals would cost her about twenty cents each and she could not afford that much, especially when she was not working. What did they eat when mother was home? Oh, the usual black coffee, molasses, corn bread, and maybe once a day some "fat back"

and greens, if they had the price.

A woman might join a group labeled "women and children in industry" without thinking how she is classifying herself, but if she continues in it with that title after she is tipped off to the humor in it, she proves that she has not mentality strong enough to plan for workingwomen.

One thing more. It has been asked why the Textile Institute announced it was sending women and children home from night work. What was the real reason? The Jews have a name for a certain kind of mind. They call it "Goylim." It is a mechanical mind; the kind that goes from A to B and B to C, but if it ever glanced from A to C something would snap. As far back as last spring, definite steps were taken by manufacturers to do away with night work. Not all belong to the Institute who are making this change, and they have been trying to make the shift gradually so the people would not suffer. They are making the change not to benefit the people but they think it will benefit the industry to stop night work for men and women. Those who have large mills running a few days a week hope of course that orders done in a small mill running day and night will be diverted to them. Some in the North think that the Institute was playing to the gallery, hoping that women would wear cotton because the Institute was "humane." Some in the South are inclined to think the statement harmful because it leans on impression that the South is worse to women in mills than the North is; and also that thinking women, especially business women, will use any-

thing but cotton because of the injustice to women in the resolution from the Institute. There are mills still running day and night here, and oddly enough these have the best conditions and villages. The women did not look as tired nor tense after the night work as some I saw in

other places who had only a day or two of work each week. All this of course is not whether night work is better or worse than day, but is an effort to offset the misery caused by those who love a pet plan devoid of a fundamental principle.

Long hours, or the same person allowed

to work night hours after the day's work, might cause overproduction; but reasonable hours for each worker, whether done night or day, by man or woman, does not hurt anyone nor any business. The Woman's Party says, "Stop, and let us reason together."

Maryland Branch Holds Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party was held Tuesday, May 19, in Anderson Chapel, Hanover, Maryland, with Almira Sweeten, one of the pioneers of the Feminist movement in Maryland, as a very delightful hostess.

Through the efforts of George C. Sweeten and the courtesy of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, an express from the West leaving Baltimore at 10 A. M. en route for Washington and the South was stopped at Hanover for the accommodation of the delegates who attended the convention. Many others drove from Baltimore, Relay, Catonsville, Ellicott City and the surrounding country. Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley and her son, with Mrs. Max Rotter and Clara Rotter of Wisconsin, motored over from Washington.

The meeting was opened at 10.45 A. M., with an address of welcome by Mrs. Sweeten, who then turned the meeting over to Edith Houghton Hooker, president of the Maryland Branch. Mrs. Hooker after a few brief introductory remarks called for reports from the various departments.

Dora G. Ogle, legislative chairman of the Maryland Branch, responded with an interesting account of the proceedings of the Maryland General Assembly. Her report showed that the Legislature of 1931, which denied women the right to serve on juries by an overwhelming vote of 85 to 29, completely reversed its attitude toward the status of women later on in the session, when a measure sponsored by the National Woman's Party was passed repealing the statute under which a wife committing a crime other than murder or

treason in the presence of her husband could not be prosecuted by law. The old Common Law presumed that the wife was dominated by her husband, man and wife were one and he was the one, so consequently by this reasoning many women escaped punishment. The new law makes possible the prosecution of a wife who commits a crime in the presence of her spouse. The chivalrous General Assembly therefore was quite willing to give women additional legal responsibilities while denying them their right to serve on juries.

Mrs. Ogle's report also showed that due to strenuous work on the part of the Maryland Branch an amendment to include hotels and apartment houses in the ten-hour law for women was killed aborning. An effort was made by the sponsors of this protective legislation to put it over quickly and quietly during the last rush hours of the session, but in this their plans went awry, for the National Woman's Party was just two jumps ahead.

The report on EQUAL RIGHTS showed that Maryland sent the paper to all the members of both houses of the Legislature during the three months' session; the members of Congress from Maryland received EQUAL RIGHTS from the same source during the entire year, as well as the twenty-six branches scattered throughout the city of the public library of Baltimore; subscriptions were also sent to private persons by individual members.

Hazel Skirven, who lobbied for the Jury Service bill, which had the backing of a committee of one thousand women, spoke on the co-operation of the broadcasting stations and the Western Union Telegraph Company and their ready response to aid

her in her work, and gave other interesting details of the campaign.

Almira Sweeten closed the morning session with an illuminating talk on Howard County politics, and then everybody hastened up the hill to her home, where a real Maryland luncheon was served under the management of Annie M. Taylor.

The afternoon session was taken up with the election of officers, planning for the fall and winter work, which included a continuance of the series of monthly dinners which proved so popular during the past winter. Then came the high point of the meeting, when Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley of Washington and Mrs. Max Rotter of Wisconsin gave interesting and detailed first-hand knowledge of the facts in the Larsh case.

The meeting closed with the adoption of the following resolution, which the secretary was instructed to forward to the Secretary of Labor, William N. Doak:

"Resolved, That the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party demands that the United States Government shall stand at International Labor Conference at Geneva for absolute equality between the sexes as regards the right to work at night or any other time.

"We respectfully ask that the Labor Department be instructed to that effect."

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Edith Houghton Hooker; first vice-president, Louise Natali-Graham; second vice-president, Almira Sweeten; legislative chairman, Dora G. Ogle; executive secretary, Florence Elizabeth Kennard; treasurer, Edith Adams Crosby; maintenance fund chairman, Louise Natali-Graham; entertainment chairman, Mollye H. Rollman.

Press Comment

Five Groups Now Urge Support of Equal Rights Bill

Philadelphia Record,
May 16, 1931.

leaders of the National Woman's Party in Pennsylvania, who are campaigning in the interest of several progressive bills, have adopted as their slogan, "Catching Up With Mississippi."

RESENTING the fact that Pennsylvania is today in the class with those States that are most backward in their legislation relating to women,

They point out that 31 States and the District of Columbia have already on their statute books one of the bills that Pennsylvania is considering, and that all the States surrounding Pennsylvania, except West Virginia, are listed in these 31.

This special bill is known as Senate Bill No. 394 and deals with a married woman's rights to mortgage and transfer her real property and to enlarge her rights as to the making of contracts. It is supported and urged by the Bankers' Association of Pennsylvania and has, as its

backers, not only the National Woman's Party, but the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs, the Pennsylvania Business and Professional Women's Clubs and the Pennsylvania Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Miss Ella Riegel, an experienced campaigner, hails from Philadelphia and is legislative chairman of the Pennsylvania Branch of the National Woman's Party. Among the women from various parts of the State who are assisting Miss Riegel is

Mrs. W. B. Christine, Pennsylvania chairman of the League of Women Voters of Scranton.

The other two Equal Rights bills that have been introduced in both Senate and House are House Bill No. 1517, and Senate Bill No. 610, and House Bill No. 1472 and Senate Bill No. 241. The former provides that for the purpose of jury service, taxation, testacy and intestacy, and for all similar purposes, the domicile of a married woman shall be determined as if she were unmarried. The latter provides for the recovery of personal injuries to a married woman.

These two bills are also endorsed by the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs, the Pennsylvania Business and Professional Women's Clubs and the Pennsylvania Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Equal Pay for Equal Work

Christian Science Monitor
Boston, Mass.,
May 13, 1931.

DURING the last two decades women have made such enormous strides toward economic and political freedom that one is often apt to forget

the whole course has not yet by any means

been covered. The difficulties which have yet to be overcome before the emancipation of women is complete arise not so much from the women being debarred by statute or regulation from following any profession they please, as from the fact that in many respects public opinion is still unenlightened enough to make it hard for ordinary women to follow with success the professions that have been legally opened to them. In England, for example, a woman can act as a barrister; but this is of small advantage so long as public opinion continues to consider women lawyers as anomalies and to withhold briefs from them.

This attitude toward women who are earning their own living sometimes crops up in the most unlikely guises and in the most unexpected places. One would expect a body of educated men to take an enlightened and rational view of professional women; and it would seem clear enough that if a woman does the same work as a man, and as well, she should receive the same pay.

In the interests of men themselves, this is a necessity of justice. Otherwise, they have no protection against the competition of cheaper labor. Yet only recently the British National Association of Schoolmasters unanimously condemned

the fundamental of equal pay for men and women teachers set out by the National Union of Teachers. Male teachers are naturally anxious that their own pay should not be reduced; but the pay of men and women can be equalized by raising the salary of the one group as well as by lowering that of the other.

To find an organization of educated individuals advancing the strange proposition that sex rather than service should be the criterion of wages is sufficiently startling; but the thing becomes an absurdity when it is urged that equal pay for men and women would result in driving men out of the teaching profession. As though it were not a well recognized fact that many men teachers today have difficulty in getting posts because women can legally be engaged at a lower rate of pay.

For many years now women have been doing educational work in Britain of the highest value, comparable with any achieved by men; and it is time that public opinion demanded that they should cease to be discriminated against in the matter of rewards. The day surely has come when women should be paid the whole, and not merely 90 per cent. of what they earn.

Feminist Notes

72-Year-Old Mayor

NOT a politician herself but a "housewife" and staunch Feminist, who says, "I have no apprehension about women in politics. They are just as capable as the men are." Clara E. Grauert, 72 years old, has just succeeded her late husband, Emile Grauert, as Mayor of Weehawken, New Jersey.

Emile Grauert was mayor of Weehawken for twenty-one years. He died on April 20.

Mrs. Grauert has spent her life "being just a housewife" and has been too busy to attend the meetings of various clubs to which she belongs because she has been keeping house for her husband and son.

She was much surprised at her choice to succeed her husband, but speedily abandoned her apron and broom for political trappings and authority when she was told that her appointment was necessary to save her husband's party—the Republican—from factional strife.

She does not plan any program of political reform, she says, but hopes to serve Weehawken until the end of her term as well as her husband did. She is planning to work for the development of the playground system, one of her husband's major interests. She has often assisted her husband and the work is not new and strange to her.

Mayor Grauert is a graduate of the

Hoboken Academy and the University of Leipzig in Germany, and now has become the second woman mayor in New Jersey.

German Banker

EMMELINE STEGEMAN is Germany's only woman bank director, according to press dispatches. She has been associated with a large banking institution in West Prussia since 1907.

More Women Police

SO SUCCESSFUL have women police been in London that the Home Secretary decided in April to increase the present forty to ninety.

News from the Field

Wisconsin Chairman Expects to Attend

MISS CLARA ROTTER of Milwaukee, who is graduating with honors this year from the University of Wisconsin, and who has been assisting in preparations for the Party Workers' Conference, has just ended a pleasant visit to Alva Belmont House. She presented headquarters, as a souvenir of her stay there, with a valuable steel engraving from a painting by Nicholas Poussin.

Mrs. Belle Bortin Rupp, chairman of the Wisconsin Branch of the Woman's

Party, writes that she expects to attend the Party Workers' Conference.

An Appeal From Montana

"IN spite of obstacles, we are making headway!" writes Mathilda Ammen from Montana, in one of the inspiring letters from her which have come to be a pleasant feature of life in the office at headquarters. She encloses a check toward expenses, from herself and her sister, and adds, "I wish sincerely that our Branch might be represented at the con-

ference. My sister and I are planning a garden party for the Branch on May 30, so you see we shall be with you in spirit if not in the flesh! May the conference prove a successful one!"

Miss Ammen, in her own name and that of Mrs. Elder, State chairman for Montana, asks that when members of the Woman's Party are contemplating cross-continental trips, they stop off at State headquarters at Missoula, Montana, and make a speech or two. "It would help greatly," she says.

Sightseers on Capitol Hill

A YOUNG man presented himself in the office at Alva Belmont House the other morning with a helpless expression.

"I don't know what to do about it but to come to you," he said. "I drive a sight-seeing bus, and whenever there is a group of women on it they want me to tell them all about the National Woman's Party. Now, I've shown them the house from the bus, and told them how you all went to jail, and everything, but they still aren't satisfied. They want more. What I want to know is this, have you any objection to letting me bring them in just to look at those busts and things and telling me some more about what you are doing. One of them today called me down because I didn't know who Lillian Larsh is. Say, is she an officer or something?"

Guests are always welcome at Alva Belmont House, and information is cheerfully dispensed. So the young man was sent on his way with the outline of a talk to make to his sightseers, and the assurance that they would be heartily welcome whenever they wanted to alight and go through headquarters.

"I sure do appreciate this," he said, pausing in the door. "Gee, lots of times the first thing they want me to tell them about is the Woman's Party!"

Equal Rights in Arkansas

MRS. C. J. SPENCER, legislative chairman for Arkansas of the Woman's Party, spoke on "The Equal Rights Movement and Better Legislation for Women" before the Fortnightly Club of Hot Springs at its first May meeting. Mrs. Spencer is one of the most active members of the Party in her State, and is constantly bringing the Woman's Party program to the attention of other groups.

New Members Join Detroit Branch

MRS. ROSE CONWAY STETSON, treasurer of the District Branch of the Woman's Party, informs us that sixteen new members for the District Branch were the result of the garden party at Alv Belmont House on Sunday afternoon, May 17, at which the topic of discussion was the deportation of Lillian Larsh. In spite of threatened rain, an interested group heard Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman; Emma Wold, technical advisor to the United States delegation at The Hague Conference on the Codification of International Law; Mrs. Max Rotter of Milwaukee, honor guest for the occasion, and investigator for the Woman's Party of the Larsh case in the records of the Department of Labor; Burnita Shelton Matthews, chairman of the Lawyers' Council; and Muna Lee, director of National Activities. The history of the case was given; its sociological and legal aspect discussed; and the demand of the Woman's Party for equality in nationality

reiterated and emphasized. No better proof of the spirit of the afternoon can be given than a repetition of this fact: sixteen new members for the District Branch were the result.

West Virginia Branch Active

MRS. F. EMMA BISHOP, State chairman of the Woman's Party for West Virginia, has had excellent results in her campaign to interest the press and legislators in her own State in the Equal Rights program. The West Virginia press, at her instigation, has carried splendid stories on the Larsh case, and has shown marked interest in Woman's Party protests against the Department of Labor's sending a representative to Geneva to uphold an unequal industrial convention.

Mrs. Bishop was one of the first to telegraph Secretary Doak demanding that the Woman's Party at Geneva stand for the principle of Equal Rights in industry.

"Nothing would afford me greater happiness than to attend the Party Workers' Conference," Mrs. Bishop writes. "I do not see my way clear to do so, but my heart and best wishes are there!"

Virginia Branch Elects Officers

MRS. ROBERT F. HUDSON was re-elected State chairman of the Virginia Branch of the National Woman's Party at the annual meeting on May 19, which preceded a dinner at the Hotel Richmond.

Other officers elected were: Mrs. Walter J. Adams, first vice-chairman; Mrs. Roy W. Flanagan, second vice-chairman; Mrs. Emma J. DeWitt, third vice-chairman; Dr. Helen Love Boisseux, fourth vice-chairman; Mrs. May Morris Lockwood, fifth vice-chairman; Mrs. Frank Jobson, sixth vice-chairman; Mrs. Percy Read, secretary; Mrs. George Pidgeon, assistant secretary; Mrs. Sam Moody, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Eunice Gregory Dyson, treasurer; Mrs. Burley and Miss Elsie McGeorge, assistant treasurers, and Mrs. Benjamin Lovenstein, legal adviser.

Committees appointed are composed of Mrs. Julia Jennings, Mrs. Robert S. Fitzgerald and Dr. Helen Love Boisseux, legislative chairmen: Publicity Committee—Mrs. Ruth Davis, chairman, Mrs. McClure, Mrs. R. C. Whitney and Mrs. Robert Fitzgerald.

Decorations Committee—Mrs. Mary Danner; chairman; Mrs. Hilda Atkinson, Miss Wilmer Near, Mrs. Kate Redd, Mrs. Charles Mosby and Mrs. Joseph Davis.

Entertainment Committee—Mrs. Charles Bolton, chairman; Mrs. Sam Moody, assistant chairman; Mrs. Emma T. Hatton, Mrs. Elsie Graff, Mrs. Lulie Millhiser Thompson and Miss D. Laurens.

Finance Committee—Mrs. Percy Read, chairman; Mrs. N. Addison Baker, Mrs. Jane Ritchie; Mrs. Fred Gann and Mrs. Homer Wood.

Educational Committee—Mrs. Emma DeWitt, Mrs. Charles Meek.

Welfare Committee—Mrs. Charles Murray, chairman; Miss Elsie Pierce, Mrs. Fred Powell, Mrs. Libby Near, Mrs. Della Eldridge Finch, Mrs. Helen Romaine, Mrs. William Tyler, Mrs. George Brown, Mrs. W. R. Robins and Mrs. Martha Deane Jones. Mrs. Mary Danner was elected envoy.

Purple iris, sunset roses and white lilacs carried out the colors of the National Woman's Party in the decorations. Mrs. Hudson was the recipient of a corsage of violets and gardenias. Rev. C. C. Ryan and Miss Julia Jennings, State legislative chairman, were speakers.

"Women and Minors"

"ARE you satisfied with being classed 'women and minors' and being referred to in the laws as 'females'?" asks a circular sent to the political science chairman and members of the California Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Southern District Federation.

The notice says:

"For your vacation reading, study the 1929 Labor Laws of the State of California as they affect 'women and minors,' or 'females.'"

"Write Walter G. Mathewson, Chief of the Division of Labor Statistics and Law Enforcement, San Francisco, and ask for a copy of the 1929 Labor Laws of the State of California; also ask to be placed on the mailing list for a copy of the 1931 Labor Laws of the State of California when it is ready for distribution.

"Carefully read the act 'limiting the hours of labor of females employed,' etc., which covers 'seats,' 'enforcement by Bureau of Labor Statistics,' and 'keeping of records,' etc.

"Also read the act 'regulating the employment of women and minors' ('minimum wage'), etc.

"When you receive your 1931 copy, carefully note the changes that have been made in these acts by the 1931 legislators.

"Are you satisfied with being classed 'women and minors,' and being referred to in the laws as 'females'?"

"Schools and libraries have been for some time offering and encouraging adult education—in other words, educational opportunities for men and women alike.

"Don't you think it is time that our legislators awoke to the realization that women taxpayers and voters should be classed in the Labor Laws as adults?"

Ruth Taunton is chairman, and Sue Brobst and Kate E. McCulloh are members of the committee.

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